

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2013 Accomplishment Plan



Date: December 07, 2016

Program or Project Title: Restoration Evaluations Program

Funds Recommended: \$ 45,000

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson

Title: Restoration Evaluation Program Coordinator

Organization: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and in cooperation with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

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Legislative Citation: ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 6(c)

Appropriation Language: \$45,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a technical evaluation panel to conduct up to ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Not Listed

Activity types:

- Restoration Evaluation

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

This program annually evaluates a sample of up to ten Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration projects and provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law (M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10).

Design and scope of work:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a restoration evaluation panel (REP) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of up to 10 habitat restoration projects completed with outdoor heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the REP reports include improving future habitat restorations in the state and providing for transparency and accountability in the use of Legacy funds. The REP will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, stated goals and standards in the restoration plans, and applicable guidelines. The program coordinator, as statutorily required, is responsible for both identifying the sample of projects to be evaluated by the panel and providing a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining whether restorations are meeting planned goals, identifying problems with implementation of restorations and, if necessary, providing recommendations on improving restorations. As part of the restoration evaluation process, site assessments will be conducted on the selected habitat restoration projects.

In 2011 BWSR and DNR leadership initiated a year-long interagency project, staffed by a project manager and an interdisciplinary team of technical and professional experts, to cooperatively develop recommendations for the formation and implementation of the program, ensuring the effective coordination between the two responsible agencies and consistency in program development. The project team established recommendations for the development and implementation of a Restoration Evaluations Program, including options for administration of the program and recommendations on the process and methods for selecting and evaluating habitat restoration projects and reporting on the panel findings (see attached Development and Implementation of a Habitat Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects).

In 2012 the DNR hired a full time Restoration Evaluation Coordinator to manage implementation of the program. As directed in statute a restoration evaluation panel (REP) of technical experts was seated. This panel consists of:

Chris Weir-Koetter – DNR, Parks and Trails

Greg Larson – BWSR

Sue Galatowitsch – University of Minnesota

Greg Berg – Stearns County SWCD

Greg Hoch - DNR, Wildlife

Mark Oja – MN NRCS

The first REP meeting was convened in May 2012. At this time annual priorities for the fiscal year 2012 & fiscal year 2013 reports were established. Six Outdoor Heritage Fund projects have been selected for evaluation during the 2012 field season. Two of these evaluations will be reported in the fiscal year 2012 report on October 31st 2012, four will be reported on in the fiscal year 2013 report on October 31st 2013. It is anticipated, given current funding, that six projects will be evaluated and reported on for the fiscal year 2014 report.

This request supports a portion of the interagency Restoration Evaluations Program, which provides for the evaluation of habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S. 97A.056), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) as required by state law.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this program:

- Not Listed

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Not Listed

Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this program:

- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Not Listed

Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2011,

First Special Session, Ch. 6) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).

How does this program accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

The restoration evaluation program formalizes and elevates the process of assessing project performance. Site assessment teams will use appropriate assessment measures to ensure established science based best practices are being applied on the ground in selected Outdoor Heritage Fund restoration projects. This level of assessment goes beyond standard reporting requirements and exceeds operational capacity of most programs.

This program also increases the communication of specific project outcomes and lessons learned from restoration implementation. Reports will focus on improving future restorations and provide feedback to practitioners regarding challenging situations and viable solutions. Creation of this continuous learning environment provides an important tool for improving restoration practice throughout the state.

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

This program will be administered according to state law. However, program outcomes will not be sustained after the period of funding has ended since there are no additional funds available for program activities.

Activity Details:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Not Listed**

Restoration Evaluation

This program will conduct up to ten site assessments of restoration projects completed with Outdoor Heritage Funds and produce an annual report to determine if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations - M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10.

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Evaluation Panel Establishes Annual Priorities	July 1, 2013
Program Coordinator Selects up to Ten Projects for Evaluation	July 1, 2013
Site Assessment Leads Conduct Field Surveys of Selected Sites	October 2014
Report Submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	May 2015

Date of Final Report Submission: 3/11/2016

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Outcomes:

Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount

Not Listed

Total Amount of Request: \$ 45000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$25,500	\$0		\$25,500
Contracts	\$15,500	\$0		\$15,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$3,800	\$0		\$3,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$200	\$0		\$200
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration evaluations program coordinator	0.40	1.00	\$25,500	\$0		\$25,500
Total	0.40	1.00	\$25,500	\$0		\$25,500

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

Not Listed

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

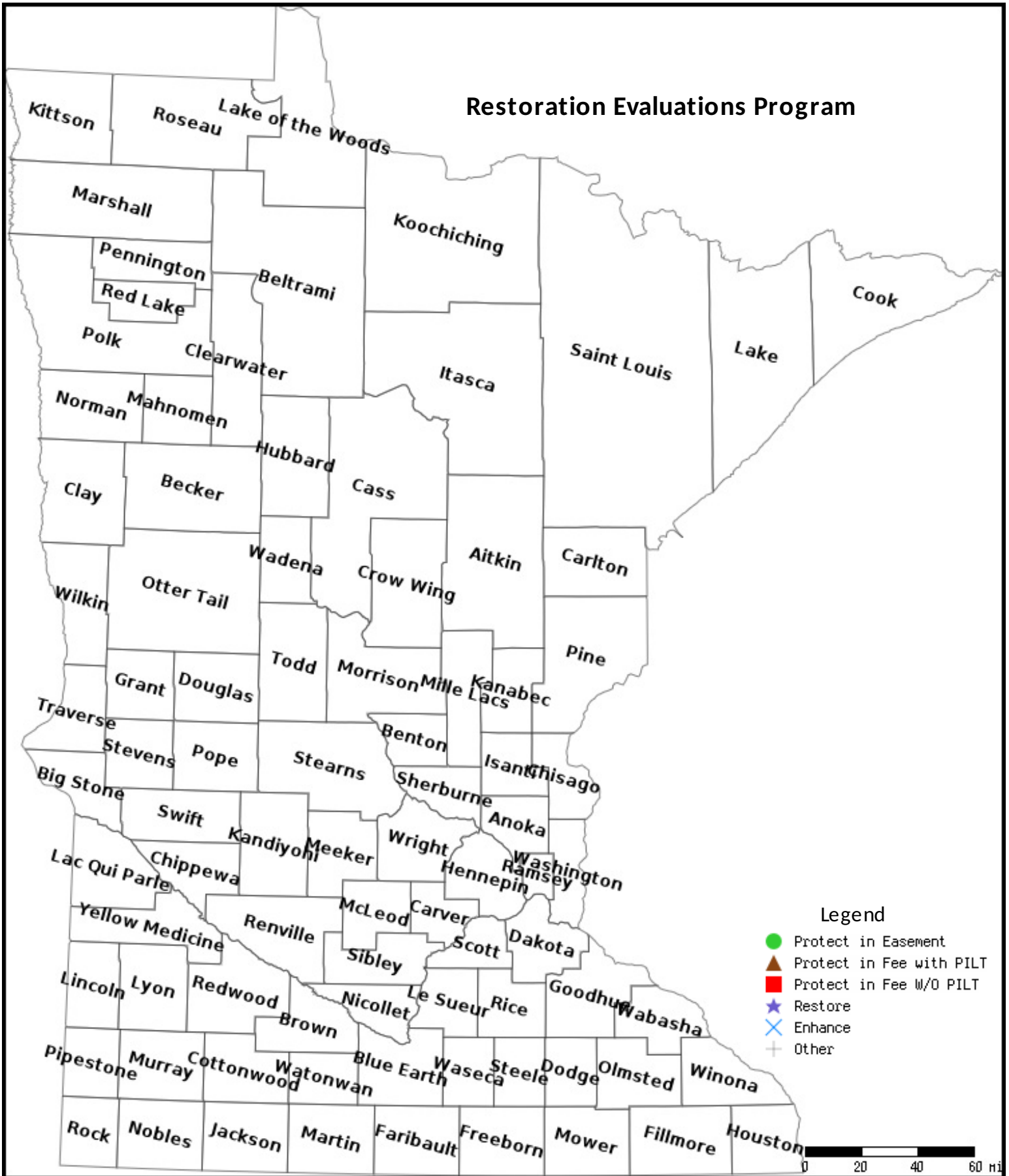
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List